

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Effective Cooperation and Implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/215 of December 20, 1991

Basic Instrument

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Effective Cooperation and Implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution (UNGA) 46/215 of December 20, 1991. The MOU was first signed in Washington, D.C., on December 3, 1993.

Implementing Legislation

None.

Member Nations

The United States and the People's Republic of China (China).

Meetings

Representatives meet periodically in the United States or China.

Description

For over two decades, the U.S. Coast Guard, in conjunction with the National Marine Fisheries Service, has embarked members of China's Fisheries Law Enforcement Command (FLEC) on Coast Guard assets patrolling the highest threat areas in the North Pacific Ocean for high seas driftnet fishing pursuant to the terms of the *Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Effective Cooperation and Implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/215 of December 20, 1991*, signed in Washington, DC, on December 3, 1993. These patrols support the global large-scale high seas driftnet moratorium called for by UNGA Resolution 46/215 and provisions of the *Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean*. They also enable China to more effectively enforce its domestic laws that prohibit high seas driftnet fishing by Chinese-flagged vessels in the North Pacific. The current Memorandum of Understanding (also known as the U.S.-China Shiprider Agreement) was renewed in 2014 for another five years.

Recent Activities

The United States and China continued joint operations in the North Pacific Ocean in 2013 pursuant to the terms of the MOU. The MOU established boarding procedures for law enforcement officials of either country to board and inspect U.S. or Chinese-flagged vessels suspected of high seas driftnet fishing. The MOU also established a "shiprider" program, which allows Chinese enforcement officials to embark on USCG vessels or aircraft. These officials are generally instrumental in facilitating communications between the USCG and China's FLEC, as well as with Chinese fishing vessels encountered on the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean. The USCG has had a strong working relationship with China's FLEC for more than 20 years. This working relationship increases opportunities for cooperation on both high seas fisheries enforcement efforts and training. This cooperation has led to interdictions and enforcement actions against numerous vessels engaged in large-scale high seas driftnet fishing activity.

The USCG Cutter MORGENTHAU hosted six shipriders from China CG fisheries law enforcement officers in 2014, including the first female Chinese CG officer to deploy with the USCG. Two Chinese shipriders worked

closely with the crew of the MORGENTHAU to successfully interdict, seize, escort, and transfer a suspected high seas drift net vessel to the China Coast Guard.

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